

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

Working Documents

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MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

tabled by Mr BANGEMANN

on behalf of the Liberal and Democratic Group

pursuant to Rule 47 of the Rules of Procedure

on the pollution of the North Sea

The European Parliament,

- 1'. Notes the increase in the pollution of the North Sea by toxic substances
 - in quantitative terms, as a result of the implantation of exploration and production equipment in the North Sea itself, the disposal of sewage sludge and industrial waste and the input of pollutants from rivers and conduits, from the air, because of accidents or deliberate discharges by vessels carrying oil, chemicals or other products and from other sources; and
 - in terms of the nature of the pollutants, in particular heavy metals and halogenated hydrocarbons, with the result that in certain places the marine environment is already in acute danger and the ecological system of the North Sea as a whole is under threat; this situation also poses a serious danger to the livelihoods of fishermen and to the health of the consumer;
2. Is of the opinion that the bases for balanced and coordinated national measures to protect and improve the marine environment of the North Sea have been created by international agreements, regulations and directives;
3. Appreciates and welcomes all national measures to supplement and implement international agreements and regulations;
4. Welcomes in particular all the measures which have so far been taken by the Commission and Council of the European Communities to improve the North Sea's ecological situation;
5. Calls for the immediate adoption of the proposals for Community directives which have already been drafted and for the urgent preparation of further directives on particularly dangerous substances;
6. Calls for immediate action, despite the considerable number of regulations already in existence, to remedy the failures, to ratify and implement international agreements, Community directives and Community regulations on the protection of the sea, particularly the North Sea, and for measures to ensure supervision, enforcement and the composition of appropriate penalties, and expects the Commission, Council and all the coastal States to take the necessary steps;
7. Requests that the disposal of pollutants into the seas and rivers by burning or dumping industrial waste at sea be halted;
8. Points out that an investigation must be made of the problem of waste being transported to countries with less stringent approval procedures and that the Community should support the work already begun by the OECD on this matter;

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9. Calls for coordinated measures by the coastal States to prevent and deal with the effects of accidents involving vessels carrying oil, chemicals or other products;
10. Is of the opinion that effective surveillance is necessary to enforce the ban on the disposal of radioactive substances in the North Sea;
11. Calls for international measures for adequate coastal protection, with special reference to the North European tidal flats ('Wattenmeer');
12. Calls for the creation of an environmental monitoring system for the North Sea, including international coordination of the coastal States' measurement programmes;
13. Calls upon the European Community to make available sufficient staff and material resources to be able to perform a coordinating role within the existing international bodies with a view to attainment of the aims of protecting the marine environment of the North Sea;
14. Suggests that an international 'North Sea Conference' of all the coastal States be convened to discuss and seek solutions to the North Sea's environmental problems;
15. Calls for a comprehensive 'Convention on the protection of the marine environment of the North Sea' and urges that, in preparation for this, a 'survey be made' of the measures taken on all the matters and in all the regions dealt with so far and of the progress achieved in their implementation.